

MNST 7522 Mission and Ministerial Identity in the ECC

0 credit required for ECC call to ministry students/open to all graduating students

Course Facilitators: Debra R. Auger dauger@northpark.edu and Guylla Brown gbrown@northpark.edu

ECC Coordinator: Carol Lawson carol.lawson@covchurch.org

Dates: Fall Semester: Oct. 3-4, 2014

Spring Semester: Feb.27-28, 2015

Time: See course schedule

Location: Nyvall Hall and ECC offices

Course Description: This pass/fail intensive course will be a seminar-styled course which will take place over two weekends in a Friday-Saturday rhythm. This course fulfills part of the requirement of the ECC for ordination as well as helps graduating students grow in their vocational identity, prepare for being in the Call Process and transition from seminary student to ministry leader. In addition students will explore how the Evangelical Covenant Church pursues Christ's priorities in the world by covenanting congregationally, regionally, denominationally and globally.

***Note: Spouses are invited and encouraged to attend as much of the class as possible except Friday October 3, 2014 at ECC offices.**

Course Goals:

By the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Communicate the primary tenets of the ECC's Organizing for Mission strategy by being exposed to the mission and ministry of the ECC.
2. Articulate the polity and structure of the Evangelical Covenant Church in order to teach and practice it at the congregational level.
3. Access the resources and services available to ECC ministry leaders.
4. Complete an effective minister's profile in preparation for the Call to Ministry process.
5. Communicate the necessary techniques and skills necessary to be prepared for the Call to Ministry Process and candidating.
6. Implement the necessary strategies to manage clergy financial issues and solutions and begin to develop a personal budget in preparation for being a ministry professional.

Course readings

Palmer, Parker. *Let Your Life Speak: listening for the voice of vocation*. San Francisco : Jossey-Bass, 2000.

Various articles will be made available during the class.

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance and participation in all sessions.
2. A 30 minute conversation about call and vocation with Dean Deb Auger These will be scheduled in the fall semester. See Guylla to schedule.
3. A completed Covconnect profile **by Dec. 1, 2014**
4. A 300-500 word reflection on the required text (Parker Palmer)**Due Dec. 15, 2014**
5. Revisit/Revision of a Rule of Life. **Due March 15, 2015**

Course Schedule:

Fall Semester: Friday, Oct.3, 2014 **Location: 8303 Higgins Rd.** **Time 9-3**

9-9:15 Introduction to Class

9:15-noon: Organizing and resourcing for Mission

Spotlight on ECC ministries

Noon: Lunch with ECC leaders

1-3: Introduction to ECC personnel/departments and personnel

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014

Location: Nyvall Hall N-20

Time: 9-4

9-11 The Role of The Dept. of Ordered Ministry: Office personnel

11:00-noon Exploring Vocational identity

Noon-1 Lunch: Jerome Nelson: The view from the Superintendent

1-2:30 Covconnect profile details and development: location, Caroline hall computer lab

2:45-4:00 Call to Ministry: Preparing to interview: techniques and case studies

Spring Semester: Friday Feb.27, 2015

Location: Nyvall Hall

Time: 9-4

9-10:30 Clergy Finance and taxes Elliot Johnson

10:45-noon: Covenant Trust Company (CTC) resources Ann Wiesbrock, president CTC

Noon: Lunch (on your own)

1:30-4 Preparing to Candidate: hearing from ourselves and others. Narratives, questions, and skill development

Saturday: Feb. 28, 2015 **Contemplative Retreat** **Location: Divine Word, Techny, IL.** **Time: 9-3**

Assignments:

1. Covconnect Profile. Once you register for MNST 7522, you will be given instructions on how to obtain a password for CovConnect. By the class on **Oct. 4** you will be expected to have completed all of the personal information and be well acquainted with the rest of the profile and begin the writing of each section. You may bring your questions to the session for this workshop-styled session. Your initial profile must be submitted to Dean Auger by **Nov.15, 2014**. Your profile must be completed and approved by D. Auger **Dec.1, 2014**.
2. You must come to class having read Parker Palmer's *Let Your Life Speak: listening for the voice of vocation*. We will discuss the cogent points. Guiding questions will be provided as you reflect and write. Your reflection on the text is due to dauger@northpark.edu by **Dec.15, 2014**.
3. A Rule of Life due to dauger@northpark.edu by **March 15, 2015**. The template/guidelines below are to be used in writing your rule of life. Please complete in full and send electronically.

RULE OF LIFE

I. **Developing a Rule of Life**, from *Soul Feast* by Marjorie Thompson (p.150ff)

There are three basic questions to reflect on in choosing disciplines for your rule of life:

1. What [of the disciplines] am I deeply attracted to, and why?
2. Where do I feel God is calling me to stretch and grow?
3. What kind of balance do I need in my life?

II. **Connecting to the Big Rule**

What from the biblical or historical tradition will help to guide your rule of life?

III. **Living out a day to day Rule of Life** from *Embracing God: Praying with Teresa of Avila* by Dwight H. Judy

For the period of time from _____ to _____

In the area of *worship*, I will:

As a personal discipline for *prayer and reflection*, I intend to:

When I think of issues within the world, I am most concerned about:

In response to this concern, I will pray for:

In response to this concern, I will serve through:

In response to this concern, I will donate money to:

In other areas of service and work, I will serve God through:

In my life of study, I will:

In my family life, I would like to:

In order to care for my physical body, I will:

If you have written something under *every* area it is too much. **Go back and choose three areas** on which to focus in this period of time.

In order to pay attention to these areas of potential development, I will review these areas on a daily and/or weekly basis, making journal notes of my relationship to the issue. For the sake of accountability I will share this rule of life with a trusted friend, mentor or family member.

Signed

date

DRAFT